

Capitulation of the Island of Antigua. 1666  
Signed Bastion Bager then President of the Council



The Remonstrance of the Commandors, officers, deputies & others the inhabitants of the Island Antigua. Declaring the grounds & Reasons: that enforced them to treat & Articulate, with the Lord Desbrière, de la barre, Lt<sup>t</sup> Generall for the king of France, in the occidentall Indies -

1666 3  
octo. 25.

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Whereas the said L<sup>t</sup>. Generall, Arrived in five Islands harbour, on the 25<sup>th</sup>. day of Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1666 with a fleet of eight sailes of ships, besides, barcks, brigatines & floopt, with About Eight, or nine hundred soldiers where after a short dispute, they became masters, of the forts & Ammunition to them belonging. forcing the govern<sup>r</sup>. Coll Robert Cardon to Retreat, [whereby they had opportunity to plunder & fire all the houses in & Adjoyning to the said harbour] to the house of Capt<sup>n</sup>. Mugg; where with, About hundred & fifty Men, he Remained all that night. And next morning, at break of the day, discovering the Enimies Approach: Drew up to the top of the hill, to which the said Enimies Advancing: our front fired once upon them, the Rest crying out, they had no Ammunition, fired About & fled, to L<sup>t</sup>. Coll. Bayers: Except some few, with the govern<sup>r</sup>. which got into the said Muggs house: where after a little Resistance, they were all taken prisoner, & Carried on board their ships, with the plunder of the said house; which they upon their Return sett on fire. that night, the said forts, that were formerly in the said Islands, were with the said Enimies, made head at L<sup>t</sup>. Coll. Bayers: keeping out continuall fire, on horse back, to observe the Enimies motion: L<sup>t</sup>. Coll. Ghesse being chosen to Command; by whose order, the barbarian soldiers: About seven files, with some of our Islanders, were sent, to beat up the Enimies quarters: who marched, as far as the said Muggs, & could not be persuaded, to proceed any further, but to the great discouragement of our Islanders, Retreatted, back, againe, to the said Bayers house. the next morning, our fronts gave notice of the Enimies Advancing, to the East side of the said Muggs house: where they made an halt About an hour: sending parties About, to discover if any Ambush, were laid for them, but finding none [for our small number, & the peoples Aversness, would not permit it] they marched on, into the said Bayers pasture, And there drew up, some two Muskets shot from the house: sending a trumpet, with a note, from Coll. Cardon then prisoner; with the L<sup>t</sup>. Generalls protection, to his wife, for his selfe, familie & goods. the said note was given to the said Bayers; And as they have since Averred, a summons; which if in paper, was not delivered, if verball not understood. the Messenger being dismist, with thanks for their civillities, to our prisoners, And our promise to use the like to theirs, when any should fall into our hands: they fitted them selves, presently for the Assault, being the marquis, Intendant, & many other persons of quality: And were for our defence, not being two hundred Men, placed at the foot of the hill, behinde the stakes. the dispute, was very sharp for halfe an hour, when the Enimies, much galed with our shot, ran violently on, And brook the passages through, upon our men: our pursuit being very hott, most were forced to fly into the futes; the others perched the house, where they made, what Resistance they could: but being overpowered, most of them killed & wounded, the Rest yacked upon quarter, And where Carried away prisoner, Aboard the ships, amongst whom was L<sup>t</sup>. Coll. Charles Ghesse desperately wounded, the house they Ransacked, plundered, & sett on fire, with all the buildings, mill boiling house, Curing houses with the sugar therein, & All other Edifices. having thus finished their distraction in this place, they Returned to five Islands, & in their way, burnt the storckhouse of the said Bayers, at the sea side being full of sugar: And Also the said Muggs sugar Works, Carrying away his Cooper, Cases &c. the major part of them that Escaped, Repaired to Capt<sup>n</sup>. Winthropes, as a place fitt to make head againe, where they continued that night, Expecting the Enimies; And the next day more coming in, made up the number, near two hundred men, of which were seven files of barbadians, who After they were furnished, with powder & ball, they wanted; publicly declared, they would obey none, but whom they please; And that they would goe to the Road, to the Rest of the barbadians. here began our inward distractions, many of the Islanders manifesting their Unwillingness, to Engage any more, Against the Enimies. notwithstanding, having chosen L<sup>t</sup>. Coll. Bastiaen Bayers, to be their Commander, they were persuaded to keep into a body, And things where ordered, as well, as the time would permitt. About noone, our fronts brought in a trumpet, with this summons -

the Lord the la barre, L<sup>ie</sup> General of the most Christian King, in the west indians  
 doe make knowne to the inhabitants of this Island Antigua, that if Against the said day noone, they shall not  
 submit themselves, to the obedience, of the King of France, we will destroy by fire the whole Island: And  
 will not give quarter to any person: yett ~~we will~~ <sup>we will</sup> give a favourable & advantageous dealing, as they shall  
 be able to get. Done in the Road in Antigua 7 novemb<sup>r</sup> new stile 1665  
 Le febvre de la barre

Very few of the officers & Gentlemen of the Country, whose presence when this summons was brought; being with the Comyns at the figg trees, in their way towards that party, at Captn Winthrop, therefore it was thought fitt, to deferre An Answer, untill they could be convened, the publick interest debated, And a generall Resolt Concluded, And to that purpose, the trumpet, was dispatch, with this message.

My Lord; we have Received y<sup>e</sup> summe, And in regard other persons, in Remote parts of the Island, are Equallij  
Concurrend with vs, in that business: we shall Commaund, with them About it, And Returne our Answer to y<sup>e</sup> Lordship  
By a messenger of our owne, Against the time prefixed. in the intyme wee are y<sup>e</sup> Lordships servants  
dated Octo: 28: 1666

Bastien Bajer: Gilbert Gargovir

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Next day the Commanders, officers, & deputies of most of the divisions, with some other gentlemen, met at the house of Mr. Henry Meyer; And having taken into Consideration, the Enimies strength, as it was mentioned before in the beginning; his Resolution, which was to burne, & destroy without quarter, his Courage, which our Men sufficiently proved in the last Conflict; his Advantage, having ships & boats, constantly out, to land where they pleased without trying, or hazarding his Men; good Arms & Ammunition enough; And on the other side, our weakness, the whole Island not being able to raise, sufficient force, to withstand so potent an Enimie; the impossibility of following him, to such places as he might land at; but that hee might still burne & destroy with



Without Resistance; Not powder enough, in the whole Island, to hold out as considerable dispute, or Engagement with him; And after that no hope of Relief, nor place of safety to Retreat too. Except the Gods will move them; the many distractions & Confusions amongst our selves; severall openly declaring, they would oppose running away to the Enemy, And carrying away with them, their Masters goods; so that in a very short time, he would have been possessor, of all our slaves & goods; And lastly our old inveterate Enemy the barbarous Indian full Experience; for upon the fifth of November, they fell upon my Lord willoughbys plantation; killed his people to the ground; doing the like to Mr. Joseph Hodgskin, & others: Some people killed by them in the paths, others unavoidable, Added to the blood & distinction, seen & felt two daies before; left us without hope of resisting the present Enemy; And therefore concluded, it better, in the sight of God & man, to surrender upon Articles, for the preserving of the lives (And as far as we could) the Estates of the said Subjects, than to lose both, through an invidious obstinacy; And there upon this following Answer was sent to the L<sup>d</sup> Generall.

Right Honourable  
We have received y<sup>or</sup> of the seventh of November new stile; which is some thing short to be, not knowing of a former summons, which is specified by y<sup>or</sup> trumpet, & by some Linnet of the Gentlemen y<sup>or</sup> person; which we suppose, was either unknown to them, or well as to be, And therefore desire y<sup>or</sup> honour, not to militate the intention of our civillities, now to believe that we shall omit any respects to y<sup>or</sup> civill proposals, of a treaty time & place at y<sup>or</sup> choice, where some Gentlemen of ours, may treat with y<sup>or</sup> honour, or Commissioners, for as we are resolved, with Gods Assistance, not to forfeit our Allegiance, to our prince, by delivering up his possession easily; so we shall not be injurious to our selves, nor render our Actions so contemptible, to men of Reason, as not to accept of y<sup>or</sup> offering y<sup>or</sup> civill construction, of what mistake have passed, we subscribe our selves - dated 29<sup>th</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1666  
John Bonold: Bastiaen Bajer: Richard Buraston: phillip Warner: John Noye: John Cottrington: James Holliday: Richard Ayres: Henry Nicholls: Jeremie Watkins: Gilbert Gregorio: William Lea: Thomas Compton: Thomas Taylor: James Hall: Thomas Longdon: harvey Kaynell.

This Answer being sent upon the foresaid Conclusion, the 29<sup>th</sup> day of Oct<sup>r</sup> by a messenger of our owne: the said L<sup>d</sup> Generall returned to the same day, by the same messenger, this following Reply

We have received y<sup>or</sup> writing of this day, delivered to be by y<sup>or</sup> deputation: we wish that you had sooner, thought of agreeing with us; which would have prevented, a great deal of blood shed, on y<sup>or</sup> side, & great distraction of y<sup>or</sup> goods: we are resolved to send you considerable person on our part, with full power to treat, with you which are to come to the Road, over against the storhouse, at St. Johns; And will be coming on Wednesday, by seven a clock in the morning; you will not fail, also, to send some person on y<sup>or</sup> part, to the same storhouse, with full power to conclude this treaty: that this business may not be prolonged. it will not be to the dishonour of y<sup>or</sup> King, to putt y<sup>or</sup> Estates, & lives under protection, when we can do without it. And though we had not power in our hands, to enforce you too it. our demeanor may plainly persuade you; that we wish you -  
y<sup>or</sup> servant Lefebvre de la barde.

30 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1666.

Whereupon, the next morning, Commissioners for the said treaty, were agreed upon & improved, by the subscribers, to the following Commission, under their hands & seals.

By the Command, officers & deputies, for severall divisions of this Island Antigua -

Whereas the Lord Lefebvre de la barde, L<sup>d</sup> Generall to the King of France, Arrives at this Island, the 25<sup>th</sup> day of this instant, with a fleet of shipping, & forces from the said King, for the reducing of the said Island, to the obedience of the King of France; And having made severall Attempts, of hostility, Against the same did upon the 28<sup>th</sup> instant; by a trumpet, send a summons, for the surrendering of the said Island: Which being answered, & a treaty concluded, did, by consent, Appoint, by his Reply, of the 29<sup>th</sup> instant a Meeting of Commissioners, of both parties, at St. Johns harbour, the 31<sup>st</sup> instant; then & there to treat, conferre & conclude touching the said summons, & surrender. Whose Authority to Authorise & Empower you, Coll. John Bonold, L<sup>d</sup> Coll. Bastiaen Bajer: Capt. Joseph Lee: Capt. Jamell Winthrop Capt. phillip Warner, & Mr. James Holliday; to repair to the said harbour, at the said time; then & there to treat; with the said Commissioners; proposals, & Articles of surrender (if you shall thinke fitt) to make; And every other inargenise, that may happen. And to conclude, for the surrender of the said Island; and y<sup>or</sup> further Authorised, upon y<sup>or</sup> dislike of the said treaty, Not receiving, such satisfaction, as may suites the interest, of the interest of the inhabitants, to break off the said treaty; And what you shall Act or do in the said: we do hereby promise to Ratify & Confirm. in testimony whereof we have hereunto sett our hands & seals, in the said Island, the thirtieth day of Oct<sup>r</sup> 1666.

Richard Buraston: Richard Ayres: Henry Nicholls: John fry: Gilbert Gregorio: Thomas Longdon: John Noye, obidias, Bradshaw: Jeremie Watkins: Walter Livens: harvey Kaynell Thomas Taylor; James Hall: Richard Browne: William proctor: Clement Edward.

So many have been our Afflictions, that amongst the many spoiles, distractions & invasions, of the Enemy: we had Almost forgotten, to Remembe, how that the same time, they Assailed us, at L<sup>d</sup> Coll. Bayers, they made an inroad, upon herminium valley & the Creek: burning & destroying, as they went -

We are come, now to the last day of the month, & the first of the treaty: on which our Commissioners repaired to the place appointed: where after a little stay, severall sloopes, & Chaloups appeared, And being come near the shore, sent for them to come on board, where was M<sup>r</sup>. de Clodrive Governor of martinico & the intendant M<sup>r</sup>. LeChambre: Commissioners on the French part. This day was spent without finishing the Articles: they standing upon very hard terms, with us: the treaty dissolved, till the next day: Above the Admirall: where both parties met, & after long debate, concluded the Articles of surrender: Which where Ratified by the L<sup>d</sup> Generall of the French on their part, And by these Commanders, officers & deputies



Deputies, & other Gentlemen, Inhabitants of this Island, on our part. in which we doubt not all Judicious  
 And impartial men, will perceive. a greater Care hath been taken, to preserve our Allegiance: to our King  
 than any particular Interest of his Subjects.  
 Having made, what defence possibly could be expected, from so weak a Colony: Lying dispart, in a barren  
 land, And three divisions, being almost ruined & destroyed, by the French already: The utmost exertions  
 hourly, to receive the like assault, And to be felled by fire & sword, had we not harkened to the proposals, of  
 a treaty, besides that we were certainly enforced, that this Enimied Resolution was, not to depart without; Re-  
 sisting the Island: So many persons of honour, being engaged therein: And therefore at the beginning, had dispatched  
 a ship, for more men, to finish their works: when in the mean time they should have, fired & destroyed round  
 the Island, near the sea side; by which we should have been forced, to fly into the mountains, there to perish  
 by cold & famine, or to the lower woods, to be murdered by the bloody Indians, of all which the Enimied In-  
 tention, we had sufficient intelligence, from a French boy taken prisoner, at the beginning And afterwards  
 confirmed by some of our own prisoners; so that could we have seen the least possibility of defending  
 the place: Against these two Enimies, at once, we should not have taken this Course, so much to our disadvantage  
 In testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our hands. in Antigua the ninth November: 1666

Joseph Lee

Samuel Wintthrop

Walter Leinen  
Oba. Bradshaw

John: Wore

James H. Huddy

Wm. B. B. B.

Gen. Nicolson

Joseph Hocking

James Hall

Geo. Benthams  
Thomas Longdon

Philip Warner  
Rich. Brastons

William: Thomas

John Campbell

John: D. Lamy

Element Curran

John: Brand

Henry Linneth  
Richard Ayres

For as much as the barbadian Soldiers, [taking Advantage] After departure of the French fleet  
 from this Island, have endeavoured by letters & other ways: to make the world believe, that our  
 & Resolution, had freighted them away, & so boast them selves, proprietors of the said Island: it is  
 thought convenient, to add this small postscript, to the foregoing Remonstrance, that those who  
 desire a true information, though the matter be never so distant, rather than live in falsehood,  
 of the most Amiable, Complexion, may receive a just Account, of those people & their Carriage.  
 The day of the Engagement, at Little Bay, being Saturday the 27. day of the month: whereas  
 present about seven fift of them, under the Command of Ensign wall, who was slain in the fight  
 And by whose encouragement; they partly regained, their lost Reputation the night before, when the  
 Refused to beat by the Enimied quarters, notwithstanding, they had begged that Employment: And  
 prevented others that would have done it. The evening of the same day, [After the defeat of the French] they  
 got together to Capt. Wintthrop, Remaining there that night, And then began to declare, that they  
 would obey no officer, but whom they pleased: the next Morning, Ammunition was given them  
 And two hoggs for their share, with which not being contented: they fell to killing hoggs & sheep  
 together with other kind people, by their example, untill they had destroyed: that  
 day eleven hoggs, thirty sheep & forty odd turkeys: besides ducks & dunghill fowls -



Many of which where yet, with two or three <sup>hamb</sup> in their bellies: when one they had killed, was  
not to their mind, they ~~had~~ threw it in the barado, An ~~hills~~ an other. the 29<sup>th</sup> they separated them  
selves, from the rest of the Company, & Marched away to Mr. Strijzel house; where ~~after~~ came  
to them, one Ensign William Lea, And most of the rest of the Barbadians; the said Lea, repaired  
to the gentlemen of the Country, that where met at Mr. myers, to consider whether the Island was  
in a condition to oppose the Enemy; or whether they should ~~consider~~ <sup>consent</sup> to a treaty: it was found  
necessary to treat; an Answer to the said summons for a treaty, was drawn, & signed by the sub-  
scribers, of ~~one~~ <sup>which</sup> the said Lea was one; And so returned to the Barbadian soldiers, at the said Strijzel  
house. the next three days, whilst the business of the treaty was in Action, the said Lea & his  
party, having got possession of three hills of Rum, drew all loose people to them that would  
come, voted the said Lea <sup>to be</sup> their Commander in Chief: And in this heat, began a Resolution to  
oppose the Enemy; in this manner the continued drinking, And sending parties abroad to the  
neighbours, for to bring in their stock to feed them: Exalting their own Courage. And this  
officers which they had made, Refusing to obey their own Capt. John Cocksington, or to agree to  
any thing, the Commissioners of the treaty, had done: publishing their supposed Resolutions  
to fight it out, to the last man, <sup>but</sup> All this time they kept close, to the hills of Rum, it least nine  
miles from the Enemy. having this spent five days. Christall growing scarce, And the said party  
complaining much of their Abuses, as by his letter to the Commissioners, knowing the said Com-  
missioners, where at Capt. Leaynells, a place secure enough, being about six miles distant  
from the Enemy, And well furnished, with hogg, sheep & Cattle, they Marched up thither, under  
pretence to Case upon the said Commissioners; No sooner came they thither, but they killed all they  
could come at, being by the said Leaynells Relation twenty two hogg, . . sheep, besides fowls.  
So Abominable was their Spoils, in that place, that six files of the Islanders, whom the strength  
of the Rum, & their vain glory, & boasting; had carryed with them thither where Ashamed of their  
designs, which was only to plunder & destroy, And so left them. the next morning being the  
4<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> the said Lea sent a small party down the hill, to burn, & to Col. Ghost house, he being  
a prisoner, as it was thought mortally wounded, And to bring what Cattle they could kill from thence;  
& to Col. Bayers the order was put in Execution, the curing house & negroes house burnt to the ground  
prevented, And the house saved, contrary to the will, order & knowledge of the said Lea. the following night they  
continued at the said Leaynells, where two days before, the said Col. Bayer, had put fire (stiff), that he had  
found in the woods from the plunder of the Enemy; which the said Lea & one Joseph Richardson, his Councellor, And  
William Taylor, one of his Captains, when the people of the house, where supposed to be asleep, broke open  
his back, in Reward, of his services Against the Enemy, the week before. the same day about the ten a Clock  
never saw the Enemy, nor came within six miles of them, but constantly kept themselves, at far from them as  
as they could. Let the impartial Judge, or whether Affaird of more Condemnation Call them Away, leaving this to  
further Consider, or whether the overruling hand, of the Almighty God, who makes war, & creates peace, hath  
done this, Let the wise in heart Consider.

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